PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

All hearsay, no solid proof, says watchdog

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo

DESPITE THE CLAIMS OF LOSING CANDIdates, a group of lawyers studying (and) the country's first automated polls has yet to see solid proof that fraud had marred the elections.

"The allegations so far have no concrete ...

ALL HEARSAY A6



BLANK BOARDS There are no entries yet on the tally boards for president and vice president as lawmakers debate all afternoon and well into the night on Wednesday on the procedures and authentication process to be adopted by the joint session of Congress in canvassing the votes. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Speaker Prospero Nograles preside during the session.

Glitch delays canvassing

No. of voters balloons to 256,733,195

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan

FROM 51,292,465 REGIStered voters to 256,733,195—what happened here?

A wrong entry in the server of Congress that increased five-fold the country's number of registered voters yesterday raised questions about the accuracy of the May 10 automated elections, contributing to the delay in the canvassing of votes for president and vice president.

Smartmatic-TIM, provider of the counting machines, and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) assured Congress that the error could be corrected and that the automated counting system had not been tampered with.

A bewildered Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Speaker Prospero Nograles, who both chair the joint congressional canvassing committee, took to task Smartmatic president for Asia Pacific Cesar Flores for the error.

The country has 51,292,465 registered voters, but the brand new server installed by Smartmatic-TIM in the Batasang Pambansa to be used for the national canvass showed that the country has 256,733,195 registered voters.

GLITCH A6



ALL IN A ROW Comelec commissioners swear to tell the truth and nothing but — as resource speakers during the joint session of Congress now sitting as the National Board of Canvassers.

Morato: Men asked ₱1B to cheat for Gibo

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE LATEST TWIST IN THE HOUSE inquiry into election fraud is the claim of former censors chief Manuel Morato that officials of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) had approached him with an offer to cheat for administration standard-bearer Gilbert Teodoro for ₱1 billion.

Morato testified yesterday before the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms that the men wanted him to be a conduit for the offer. He said he did not bother to tell Teodoro about it because he knew that it would be "out of character" for his candidate "to indulge in such an operation."

Morato said he appeared before the committee to corroborate the statements on Tuesday of lawyer Homobono Adaza, who said a group of seven men, including four Comelec re-

MORATO A6

Times St. packs 'em in: Well-wishers, jobless, 'James Bond'



By Gil C. Cabacungan and Jerome Aning

THE NEEDY, THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE feeling entitled are making a beeline for a house on Times Street in Quezon City.

Walk-in applicants and letters bearing résumés and congratulations, including one from "James Bond," are swamping the home of presumptive president-elect Benigno Aquino III.

A member of Aquino's close-in staff, who asked not to be named because of

TIMES ST. A6

Last 2 minutes: Ombudsman clears GMA, Mike A

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IS THIS A CASE OF A "MIDNIGHT" clearance?

A little more than a month before the end of her term, President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo have again been cleared by the Office of the Ombudsman of liability in the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

But in a resolution dated April 19 and released yesterday, the Ombudsman upheld its earlier ruling recommending the filing of criminal and administrative charges against former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Abalos and Social Security System presi-

LAST A11

'Crouching' star on the road to save lives

By Philip C. Tubeza

FAMED ASIAN ACTRESS Michelle Yeoh yesterday brought her global campaign for road safety to the Philippines, warning that deaths and injuries from accidents in the Asia-Pacific region were reaching epidemic levels.

Sweating profusely in Manila's heat, Yeoh patiently signed helmets for some 200 students during the launching of the "Helmets for Kids" campaign at the office of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Pasig City.

"It's a real pleasure to be here in Manila. Most of all, I think this [campaign] is vital for the safety of our future generations. This is for the kids," said the 47-year-old

'CROUCHING' A6



ROADMAP TO SAFETY Malaysian international actress Michelle Yeoh, global ambassador for the "Make Roads Safe" campaign, shows students of Ortañez Elementary School in Pasig City the necessity for motorcycle riders to wear a helmet.

Locsin admits mistake: PCOS signatures same as digital

By Leila B. Salaverria

THERE IS NO REASON TO FUSS over the absence of digital signatures of the board of election inspectors (BEI) on election returns after all, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin yesterday said.

Locsin said he was wrong when he warned that the lack of the BEI's digital signatures made the authenticity of election returns questionable but that Congress might just ignore the mistake.

Yesterday, Locsin, chair of the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, said that he had made a mistake because the requirements of the law had been practically complied with.

LOCSIN A6

Comelec asks DOJ to probe 'Hello, Ronnie'

By Kristine L. Alave

"HELLO RONNIE," THE ALLEGED wiretapped phone conversation between Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Election Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer will be investigated by the Department of Justice.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has asked the justice department and also the Philippine National Police (PNP) to investigate reports of other irregularities in the May 10 elections, which some officials said could be aimed at discrediting the country's first automated voting process.

Election Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said poll officials had met with their counterparts from the justice depart-

COMELEC A11

'Twas year's hottest day in Metro: 38 °C

By Alcuin Papa

TEMPERATURES REACHED A MERCIless 38 degrees Celsius a little past 2 p.m. in Metro Manila yesterday, the hottest this year so far in the metropolis.

'TWAS A6

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2		
	17	2
	1	6
	19	9

SUERTRES			
	1	6	3
	2	6	7
	7	5	3

FOUR DIGIT: 8 0 0 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 1 13 17 29 31 41 — P33,861,103.20

6/55 GRAND LOTTO: 5 8 19 31 41 47 — P30,000,000.00

‘No stopping Imelda gems auction’

By Philip C. Tubeza

PCGG COMMISSIONER RICARDO ABCEDE IS determined to carry out the auction of the confiscated jewelry of the widow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in spite of the impending change in administration.

HK-bound man with P12M cash held at airport

By Jerome Aning

Comelec reminds bets to submit expense reports

By Kristine L. Alave

‘Very rich’ candidates

Taxman cometh

Who has RP’s toughest job?

By Jerome Aning







DOJ chief clears Claire in tax case

By Dona Pazzibugan

Arroyo's 9-year achievement on parade on Freedom Day

GMA offers Noynoy tour of Malacañang

Noynoy taps Deles as peace adviser









Morato: Men asked ₱1B to cheat for Gibo



MOUTH WATERING Manuel Morato tells the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms how a group of men claiming to be from the Comelec offered to rig the elections in favor of the candidate Gilbert Teodoro for ₱1 billion.

Cheat to win, protect

Computer-illiterate

Scam artists

'Let's move on'

Monitoring masked man

'Twas hottest day of the year in Metro: 38 degrees Celsius

RP's hot spot

Locsin admits mistake: PCOS signatures same as digital

PCOS signature



PLAYFUL Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

'Crouching' star on global campaign for road safety



'TOMORROW NEVER DIES'

Int'l transport forum

Road safety, too

5,000 killed daily

Needless suffering

Campaign goals

Glitch delays canvass: Voters balloon

From page A1

Technicians

Report on error

Voters in Indonesia

Certification



SENATE CONTINGENT Senators Edgardo Angara, Miguel Zubiri (standing), Gregorio Honasan and Rodolfo Biazon make their presence felt at the joint canvassing of votes at the Batasan Pambansa on Wednesday.

2 separate COCs

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Defer decision

All hearsay, no solid proof, says watchdog; 'CF card unalterable'

From page A1

Unalterable

Verification

Picture of each ballot

Visit to warehouse

Clean

Times St. packs 'em in: Well-wishers, jobless, 'James Bond'

From page A1

Walk-ins

At least 1,185 posts

Free jailbirds

Bigger budget

PNP wants gun ban extended

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) yesterday bared plans of extending the gun ban imposed during the election season to further curb [illegible] stemming from the unrestrained use of firearms.

"Actually it is not a total gun ban," said PNP Director Gen. Jesus Verzosa during a press conference at Camp Crame yesterday.

"We just control [others] some persons are still allowed to carry guns but under certain conditions," Verzosa clarified to allay fears and doubts that may be prompted by the plan of extending the gun ban.

During the gun ban [illegible] covering the election period, the police arrested [illegible] those carrying deadly weapons outside their homes despite the nationwide gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.

Under the Comelec resolution, only members of the PNP, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other law enforcement agencies in proper uniform and while in actual performance of official duty were authorized to bear firearms.

The number of people violating the election gun ban during the period [illegible] 3,000 [illegible] Verzosa.

He said the police organization would scrutinize the provisions of the election gun ban and "make amendments" for the enhanced gun control policy during the second National Firearms Control Summit proposed to be held on June 2.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Defrauding ourselves

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



Déjà vu all over again

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

[illegible]

After the fall

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Dilemma

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Taming the mob

YOUNG BLOOD

'Misa Baclayana': ancient beauty that sounds so new

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Silence and consent

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

People made polls a success

LETTERS

Environmentalists hail Chief Justice Puno

Right higher than law

Planting seeds of mistrust

Last 2 minutes: Ombudsman clears GMA, Mike A



MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ

Questioned resolution

P200-M bribe

No explanation

Comelec asks DOJ to probe

Self-serving

Resource persons now accused

PCOS machines in Antipolo

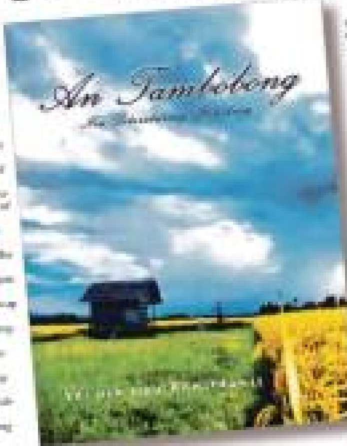
No probe of 'koala bear'

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 27, 2010

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

A granary of poems about Bicol farmers



Lessons from the 'kangga'

Perseverance

Dwindling income

Parish



Across the NATION

Gov't starts selling gold rush areas

DAVAO CITY—THE STATE-RUN PHILIPPINE Mining Development Corp. (PMDC) on Tuesday confirmed that it has awarded part of the 8,100-hectare mining reserve in Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley to at least three companies.

[illegible]

MILF sacks leader behind 2008 attacks on civilians

[illegible]



COOL BATH

[illegible]

DepEd exec raises alarm over theft, sale of books

[illegible]

Small-town circumciser readies retirement



[illegible]

PNP chief seeks summit to put an end to 'jueteng'



[illegible]

Ranidel, 2 other Texters lead way

SPORTS

Gin Kings snap Beermen's run

Express struggle past C. Masters



Salvador, Pucay share FH golf lead



Iran's Mahram stretches RP 5's woes

President Obama could teach Floyd Mayweather Jr. to behave

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

Indian pug pips Potecio

ICTSI teammates trail by three

FilOil: Red Lions devour Chiefs

Not a Peping show at PSC?

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

UST, SSC clash for Shakey's V-League title

By Jasmine W. Payo

Hot Suns torch Lakers, tie series



THREE-POINT shooting and strong bench play from the likes of Leandro Barbosa provide the X-factor for Phoenix.

SHARAPOVA SCORES

'Nervous' Nadal cruises to French Open victory



NADAL

SPORTSWATCH

BBL lures 48 teams

Tiu logs double drag triumph

Ramos leads early NCAA winners

Muntinlupa crushes Hoopla inter-zonal foe

So, Gomez keep Tagaytay GM chess lead



SO

By Roy Luarca



Raise your lifestyle
to the NTH POWER.
GREENBELT MADISON
FULLY FURNISHED UNITS
₱12,000
NO DOWN PAYMENT

A plus METRO

Kidnap try inside posh village foiled

Cops kill one of the suspects during a brief shootout

A GUNFIGHT BROKE OUT BETWEEN POLICE operatives and suspected kidnappers Tuesday afternoon in the upscale Valle Verde II subdivision in Pasig City in what the authorities described as a botched kidnapping attempt.

Jealous wife shoots cop hubby

Help make census work easy

Baclaran vendors kept off main roads but may use side streets

Jail term after 4 years

By Nina Calleja



FLAG DAY

MetroBriefs

'Back-to-school' trade fair set

Woman's body fished out of Pasig

Quick response by Las Piñas firefighters

Aussie Embassy staff help clean up Pasay City schools

By Nina Calleja

Maid of UP professor found dead inside employer's house

By Nancy Carvajal

Kidnap try foiled

The WORLD

N. Korea poised to cut last link with South

SEOUL—NORTH Korea on Wednesday threatened to block cross-border traffic and blow up any South Korean loudspeakers blasting propaganda northward after a six-year hiatus, as tensions soared over the sinking of a South Korean warship.



SOUTH KOREAN President Lee Myung-bak welcomes US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the presidential palace in Seoul.

Thousands pray for peace in Bangkok



Europe faces an era of gov't spending cuts

WorldBriefs

Bombs rock southern Thailand

Green study lauds Nokia, Sony Ericsson

Bush book begins with end to drinking

Cancun mayor arrested on drug charges

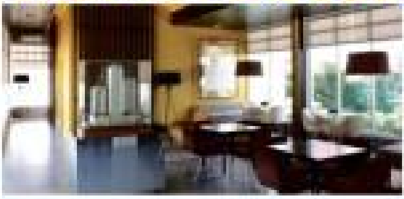
Premier's flamboyant shirt inspires copies

BP tries to choke off Gulf of Mexico oil gusher



Brazen Baghdad gold heist ends in 15 dead

Vista Residences' Trevi:
A Home The Urban Warrior Deserves







ENTER VISTA RESIDENCES' LAURIANO DI TREVI

LOOKS GREAT LIVING'S EVEN BETTER

OUR GRAND LOBBY SAYS, "WELCOME HOME, WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK."

A DIFFERENCE THAT TRANSLATES TO DESIRE



IN THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE

Imports surged 39% to $4.54B in March

NSO notes strong rebound in electronics shipments

By Michelle V. Remo

IMPORTS JUMPED 39 PERCENT TO $4.54 BILLION in March from only $3.3 billion a year ago, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday.

[illegible]

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

Stocks defy global weakness

[illegible]



Petron drops joint venture plan with SMC

By Amy R. Remo

PETRON CORP., THE COUNTRY's biggest oil refiner and retailer, said it would no longer pursue the formation of a joint venture company with San Miguel Energy Corp.

However, the oil company did not cite the reason why the partnership did not push through.

When sought for comment, Petron president Eric O. Recto declined to make comment, adding that the company would make the appropriate reply to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Last week, Petron disclosed to the PSE that it had agreed to enter into a joint venture with the energy unit of diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. for the establishment of a power plant in Bataan.

The joint venture was supposed to oversee the establishment of a 70-megawatt coal-fired facility that would address the refinery's growing steam and power supply requirements at its 180,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Limay, Bataan.

The planned power plant, which was estimated to cost P10 billion, was to be put up within Petron's refinery complex. The construction was scheduled to start this year and completion was targeted in 2012.

Petron general manager Lubin B. Nepomuceno had said that the company intended to sell to the Luzon grid the excess electricity that the power plant would generate.

"We have no targeted customers, but our generation cost is competitive since we will fire it with coal as fuel and then petcoke, which is cheaper since it is a byproduct," Nepomuceno continued.

Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

Foreign Exchange

[illegible]

Oriental Energy gets DENR nod for hydro project

18-MW plant in Aklan

Subic yet so small

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III



People, Events & Products

RCBC Bankard launches Mango-RCBC Bankard MasterCard

QC, FELTA INAUGURATE FIRST INTERACTIVE SCIENCE CENTER



Biggest machinery, technology show to take Davao by storm

Bits Clips

GE-Rimong at Food Show Davao

Learn to train and be a Certified Training Professional

Cool down with Texas Roadhouse Grill's Margarita promo!

More instant millionaires with Premyo sa Resibo

BUSINESS

Bangkok turmoil seen to benefit RP tourism

Hotels suffer low occupancy as visitors avoid Thailand



Small oil players buck zero tariff plan

Program brings water to Mati town

BUSINESS

Romero ready to list Harbour Centre in '10

New holding firm to take charge of growing port assets

By Paolo G. Montecillo and Doris Dumlao

Napocor to bid out ₱1.63B in fuel deals

Recall of motor vehicle dev't plan urged

By Abigail L. Ho

Cebu Pacific not in a hurry to conduct IPO

By Doris C. Dumlao



CLOSER TIES

BSP sees inflation accelerating to 4.2% in May with recovery

PMDC sets ₱500-M floor for Diwalwal bids

Corporate paper at PDEx hits ₱173.3B

Euro crisis weighs on German consumer sentiment, GfK says



Euro down as debt fears linger; Asia stocks rally

Asia ex-Japan equities cheapest since March '09

Brazil to grow, Europe may hurt global recovery, IMF says

China keeps taste for luxury, survey says

Imports surged 39% to $4.54B in March

Stocks defy global weakness

LIFESTYLE Food





Shredded pork as sandwich filling, topping for 'palabok,' 'adobong kangkong'

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

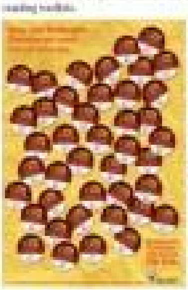






MAKE YOUR McDONALD'S CHEESEBURGER COUNT







Café, lounge and wine bar that serves European specialties







ORGANIC Chicken with Potato Crust



CAFE 1771's chic and casual Lounge area

Whimsy

The Lounge

Wine Bar

Shredded pork as sandwich filling…



Homemade Bah Hoo Shredded Pork

Cold coffee, tea

Dim sum, anyone?



Refreshing 'calamansi' slush

By Norma Chikiamco

Calamansi Slush

Tips

Weekend gourmet market in Eastwood



Cheesy Italian pizza



Green curry with beef

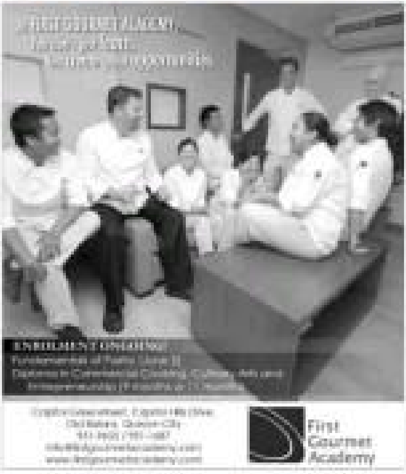
Thai dishes

Sausage and egg 'pan de sal'

Top shelf margarita

Baby-back ribs

DINING OUT



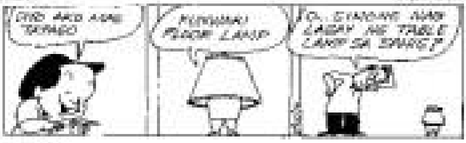




GARFIELD



A-LIPIN



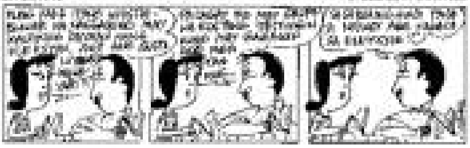
PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY



LOVEBIRDS



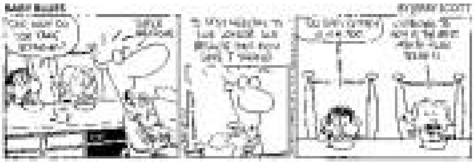
JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



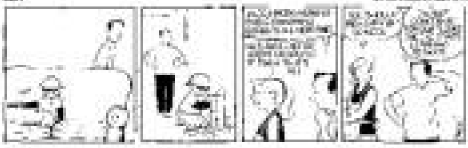
BABY BLUES



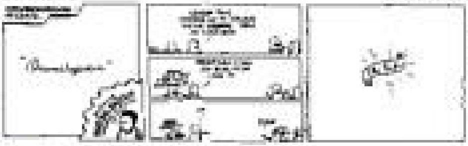
TULDOK



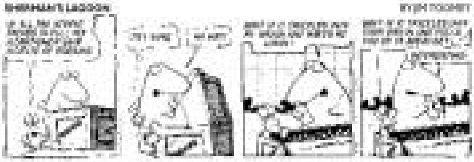
BEN



KIKO MACHINE



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



HOROSCOPE

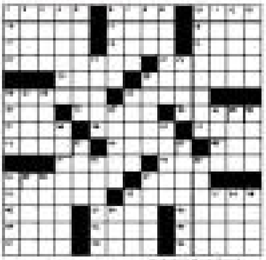
CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

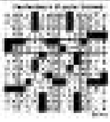
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

2				4				7
	8				3		1	
		9				8		
	2		8		6			
8				2				3
			3		9		2	
		7				3		
	9		4				6	
4				5				9

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





'Char siew asado pao,' 'laksa,' Hainanese chicken rice, Bak Kut Teh, ice 'kachang'–Orchard Road offerings

Orchard Road is one of the main streets in Singapore and is also the name of the latest restaurant at Megamall

Word of Mouth



Sandy Daza

Dessert

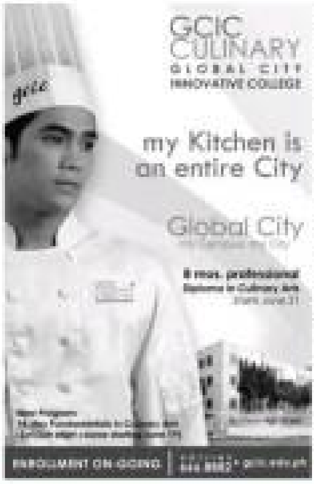
Bak Kut Teh

White and red wines paired with Spanish food

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix







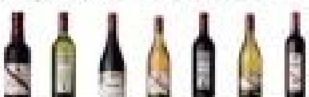




Chef Skei's menu

THE ... ON WINE AND FOOD





From black Angus steak, Kobe beef to ice cream, pasta, pizza

THE QUIET DINER
RESTOS AT A GLANCE

RATING INDEX

Poor

Good

Excellent

Rating

Rating

Buy ice cream, get discounts and win prizes

ENTERTAINMENT

Guess who'll soon be in the cast of 'Glee'?



APO: Good to quit now with reputation intact



Has the group lost its bite and practically become irrelevant?

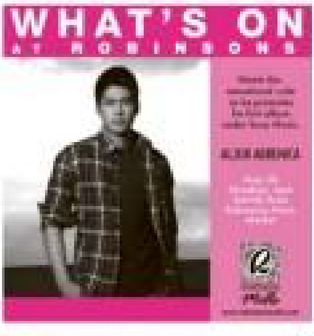


Kids dolled up like little Beyoncés



Nestor U. Torre







DIVA Montelaba





ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
5 IRON MAN 2
6 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
7 ROBIN HOOD
8 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
9 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
10 RAIDA

MANILA

1 IRON MAN 2
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
4 AMERICAN VIRGIN
5 ROBIN HOOD
6 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
7 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER

METRO EAST

1 ROBIN HOOD
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
5 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
6 IRON MAN 2
7 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
8 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

NOVALICHES

1 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
4 ROBIN HOOD

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 IRON MAN 2
2 ROBIN HOOD
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 SHREK FOREVER AFTER

STA. ROSA

1 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
2 IRON MAN 2
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

LIPA

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
3 IRON MAN 2
4 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
5 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

DASMARIÑAS

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 ROBIN HOOD
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

STARMILLS

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
5 IRON MAN 2
6 ROBIN HOOD

IMUS

1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
4 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
5 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
6 ROBIN HOOD

ANGELES

1 ROBIN HOOD
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
4 SHREK FOREVER AFTER

TACLOBAN

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
2 THE BACK-UP PLAN
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

DUMAGUETE

1 THE BACK-UP PLAN
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 SHREK FOREVER AFTER

BACOLOD

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
5 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
6 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

ILOILO

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER (Digital 3D)
2 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
5 FURRY VENGEANCE
6 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

GENSAN

1 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
4 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

ILOCOS NORTE

1 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
2 SHREK FOREVER AFTER
3 PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

Kids dolled up like little Beyoncés

From page D1

a stringent review of what can and can't be seen on TV, since the popular medium is viewed by impressionable and psychologically vulnerable minors, often without parental supervision.

What's even more shocking about this TV phenom? Pretty much the same and sometimes even worse can be seen on Philippine TV in a regular basis—and nobody gives a hoot!

Aping adults

As anybody who watches the local tube knows only too well, "overly grown-up" kids are often seen on TV here, sometimes even at high noon, slavishly aping the slippery "spaghetti" movements of adult "bold" dancers.

In fact, it isn't only on TV that the slithering, shimmying movements are danced by little girls who imitate the "trendy" tune-making routines made popular on the tube. Even in neighborhood and barangay celebrations and school programs, the sexy numbers are performed by clueless minors—as their parents and teachers laugh and applaud.

They think it's the cutest thing that their little darlings look, move and dance exactly like the sexy stars on TV—and they don't worry for one minute about "precocious sexualization," the cheap exploitation of minors and the fact that the girls are much too young to be following like sexy stars.

Clueless?

So, why have we become so clueless, jaded and dense? Let's hope that it isn't because we simply don't care about protecting our little children from the seductive hypnotizing of "trendy" media images.

It's normal for us to want to "belong," but we should also be aware of the dangers involved when the need for such pseudo-youth and exploitation are involved.

How can we help more Filipinos become more sensitive to these and other potentially negative effects of irresponsible practices on TV and in the music, dance and fashion fields?

First off, our TV people need to be much more responsible than they have been. Next, the government agencies set up to supervise TV in this country must do a better job.

Cleaning up

Third, viewers themselves should get involved in cleaning and clearing up the trashy and risqué TV picture.

In other countries, viewers have set up their own monitoring groups, which wield a lot of influence on TV practitioners and advertisers. Why don't concerned viewers here similarly get organized so they can use their collective "viewer power" to persuade, or even force, irresponsible TV people to do what's right for young viewers?

Little has been



"PINOY SUNDAY"

A weekend in Malaysia

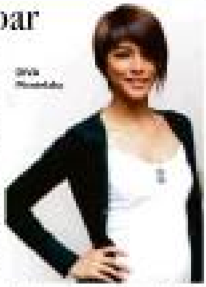
BACKSTORY

Lea Salonga



StarStruck's Diva ready to roar

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



Diva Montelaba